

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NOUAKC 00893 271757Z

46

ACTION AID-59

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 FDRE-00 IGA-02

EUR-25 IO-15 ACDA-19 COME-00 INT-08 USIE-00 PC-15

AGR-20 EB-11 RSC-01 DRC-01 L-03 TRSE-00 PM-07 /197 W

----- 080271

O 271715Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1565

INFO AMEMBASSY BAMAKO IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAKAR IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ROME IMMEDIATE

JCS IMMEDIATE

DIA IMMEDIATE

DOD IMMEDIATE

USREDCOM MCDILL AFB TAMPA FLA IMMEDIATE

HQ TAC LANGLEY AFB VIRGINIA IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NOUAKCHOTT 893

AFDROUGHT

ROME FOR FODAG

EO 11652: NA

SUBJECT: USG AIRLIFT IN MAURITANIA

REF: A. STATE 191344, B. NOUAKCHOTT 884, C. NOUAKCHOTT 886

D. DAKAR 4325, E. BAMAKO 3012

1. SUMMARY: IN LIGHT NEW INFORMATION CONTAINED REFTELS
D AND E PLUS OUR TELECON WITH ADO AND DATT DAKAR, JUDGE THERE
NO POINT PURSUING IDEA OF LIFTING GRAIN FROM DAKAR. THERE ARE,
THEREFORE, ONLY TWO ALTERNATIVES TO CONSIDER: A) BASE AIRCRAFT
IN DAKAR LIFTING GRAIN FROM NOUAKCHOTT TO INTERIOR AND
B) BASE WHOLE OPERATION IN NOUAKCHOTT. ALTERNATIVE A SEEMS
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PREFERABLE THIS EMBASSY, BUT DEFER DOD JUDGEMENT WHICH IS

MORE WORKABLE FROM USAF STANDPOINT. UNDER ALTERNATIVE A) AIRCRAFT WOULD PICK UP CARGO NOUAKCHOTT EARLY MORNING, MAKE RUN TO KIFFA/AIOUN, OFF-LOAD, RETURN NOUAKCHOTT FOR SECOND LOAD, OFF-LOAD, AND DEPART DIRECT FOR DAKAR, RON, REPEATING OPERATION ON SUCCESSIVE DAYS. FUEL COULD BE PURCHASED DUTY-FREE NOUAKCHOTT. ONLY HANDFUL AF PERSONNEL WOULD BE BASED NOUAKCHOTT UNDER THIS ALTERNATIVE.

1. APPRECIATE DETAILED INFORMATION AND "CAN-DO" ATTITUDE CONVEYED BAMAKO REFTEL FROM COLONEL HARP. PARTICULARLY WELCOME PROPOSAL FOR TEST LANDINGS NEMA-KIFFA-AIOUN AS FOLLOW-UP TO DATT DAKAR SURVEY. TAKE ISSUE WITH ONLY ONE POINT REFTEL: THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM HERE IN OBTAINING BALANCED DIET EVEN THOUGH CHOICE OF FOODS SOMETIMES LIMITED AND NOT ALWAYS AMERICAN TASTE.

2. DAKAR REFTEL MAKES CLEAR PROBABLY INSURMOUNTABLE PROBLEMS ATTEMPTING MOUNT AIRLIFT EFFORT FROM SENEGAL USING STOCKS PRESENTLY AVAILABLE DAKAR PORT. GOS-GIRM AGREEMENT ON CUSTOMS MEASURES WOULD BE IMPOSSIBLE IN TIME FRAME WE PROPOSE FOR INAUGURATION EMERGENCY AIRLIFT OPS. LACK OF MAURITANIAN PERSONNEL IN DAKAR, FURTHERMORE, WOULD MAKE ANY SUCH ARRANGEMENT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT TO IMPLEMENT. GIVEN, HOWEVER, PRIORITY REQUIREMENTS NOTED BAMAKO 3012 AND NEED ASSURE SPARE PARTS/ SERVICE FACILITIES, USE OF DAKAR AS BASE FOR AIRCRAFT OFFERS SUREST WAY MAXIMIZE AIRLIFT POTENTIAL DESPITE SOME EXTRA COSTS INVOLVED.

3. EMPHASIZE WE READY SUPPORT WHICHEVER ALTERNATIVE CHOSEN WHILE RECOMMENDING SCENARIO OUTLINED IN SUMMARY. REQUEST ANY FURTHER ADDRESSEE COMMENTS AND QUESTIONS ON IMMEDIATE BASIS. MURPHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: DISASTER RELIEF, AIR TRANSPORTATION, GRAINS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 SEP 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NOUAKC00893
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: NOUAKCHOTT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t1973096/aaaaaehk.tel
Line Count: 93
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AID
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 191344, B. NOUAKCHOTT 884., C. NOUAKCHOTT 886
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 SEP 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07-Sep-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <14 FEB 2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USG AIRLIFT IN MAURITANIA
TAGS: EAID, SWEL, MR, SG
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005